

Warden Message

November 17, 2009

Dear Warden and/or Registrant:

The U.S. Embassy in Quito and Consulate General in Guayaquil wish to remind American citizens visiting or resident in Ecuador of the need to be vigilant about their personal security in light of the October 17 kidnapping for ransom of an American citizen traveling in the northern province of Carchi. While the victim was rescued and one of the kidnappers was arrested, American citizens are reminded to maintain good overseas security practices in their day-to-day activities and to be vigilant at all times. Below are recommended actions that American citizens should incorporate into their daily security practices:

- Maintain a habitual state of alertness.
- Keep a low personal profile by not doing anything that draws attention to you.
- Become familiar with your surroundings - it will become easier to identify suspicious or out of place people and items.
- Check the interior and exterior of your vehicle prior to getting into your vehicle.
- Check the street near your residence before you go out each day.
- Remember, people are generally most vulnerable in the morning when departing for work.
- Vary your times and routes to and from work.
- Tell your household staff and family members to note descriptions and license numbers of suspicious vehicles seen near your residence.
- Your colleagues and family should be aware of your daily plans and how to reach you.
- Keep emergency numbers readily available; provide your family with emergency numbers.
- If possible, limit the amount of personal information that you share with doormen, maids, vendors, temporary workers, etc.
- If possible, limit the amount of access to your residence that you provide to doormen, vendors, temporary workers, etc.

The U.S. Embassy in Quito and Consulate General in Guayaquil also wish to remind American citizens visiting or resident in Ecuador to practice sound personal security. With the recent power outages throughout the country, please keep in mind that criminals may utilize the cover of darkness to carry out their criminal activity. American Citizens should be cognizant of this threat and take appropriate preparatory measures at home in anticipation of the power outages. Ensure that your family has candles and flashlights ready for emergencies. If traveling outside your home while the power is out, remember that traffic lights will be out. Be particularly vigilant when driving, especially when crossing intersections.

The U.S. Embassy in Quito also wishes to inform American citizens visiting or resident in the Quito area of several recent robberies of businesses and individuals in the Monteserrin neighborhood of Quito. Since these events occurred close to a school, we urge American citizens to share this information with their family members and discuss personal security practices with their children.

Embassy reminds all American citizens to practice sound personal security at all times.

Criminals routinely utilize the threat of force while carrying out criminal activity and resistance to robbery attempts substantially increases the likelihood of violence. If you are a victim of a robbery, in most instances, it is safest to be non-confrontational and give up your valuables.

There is nothing of any material value that is worth more than the personal health and well being of you and your family. The first step in avoiding a criminal incident is to stay alert at all times and be aware of your environment. Be alert to suspicious persons and/or activity in your neighborhood and report them to the Police.

Americans living or traveling in Ecuador are encouraged to register with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate through the [State Department's travel registration website](http://travel.state.gov), and to obtain updated information on travel and security within Ecuador. Americans without Internet access may register directly with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. By registering, American citizens make it easier for the Embassy or Consulate to contact them in case of emergency. Please see the following links for local warden message information in Quito and Guayaquil, respectively, <http://ecuador.usembassy.gov/> and <http://guayaquil.usconsulate.gov/>.

U.S. citizens should consult the Country Specific Information for Ecuador and the latest Travel Alerts and Warnings and Worldwide Caution at the Department's web site at <http://travel.state.gov>. Updated information on travel and security in Ecuador may also be obtained from the Department of State by calling 1-888-407-4747 within the United States or by calling 1-202-501-4444 outside the United States.

The U.S. Embassy in Quito is located at Avigiras E12-170 y Eloy Alfaro. The telephone during business hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) is (011) 593 2 398 5000 X3800. Within the same city use the last seven digits. Add the city code for intercity telephone calls. See also the Embassy web site at <http://ecuador.usembassy.gov/>. American Citizen walk-in hours are between 1:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday thru Thursday, excluding U.S. and Ecuadorian holidays.

The U.S. Consulate General in Guayaquil is located at the corner of Avenida 9 de Octubre and Garcia Moreno (near the Hotel Oro Verde); telephone (011-593-4) 232-3570 during business hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) or 232-1152 for after-hours emergencies; fax (011-593-4) 232-0904. See the Consulate General web site at <http://guayaquil.usconsulate.gov/>.